

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 OMB-01 NEA-10 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 127208

R 311914Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8460

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15811

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW, XT

SUBJECT: FRG MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROBLEMS IN TRANS

ATLANTIC RELATIONS

1. WEST GERMAN PRESS AND TELEVISION CONTINUES TO GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN THE US AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES, AND SPECIFICALLY BETWEEN THE US AND FRG, AS A RESULT OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. IN GENERAL, MODERATE COMMENTATORS ARE INCLINED TO SEE FAILINGS ON BOTH SIDES. THEY CHARGE THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT WITH UNNECESSARILY CRUDE HANDLING OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS AND THEY CONSIDER THAT THE EUROPEAN ALLIES COULD AND SHOULD HAVE SHOWN MORE SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION FOR US EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS BROAD AGREEMENT THAT THE US SHOULD DO MORE TO CONSULT AND INFORM ITS ALLIES IN ADVANCE.

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2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL'S VISIT ATTRACTED

SPECIAL ATTENTION IN LIGHT OF THE TRANS ATLANTIC CONTROVERSY, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED THAT HIS VISIT WAS NOT A RESULT OF THE CURRENT PROBLEMS. HIS CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL AND ON OPPOSITION LEADER CARSTENS WERE WELL COVERED IN OCTOBER 30 TELEVISION PROGRAMS AND TREATED AS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE US AND FRG VIEW POINTS.

3. OCTOBER 31 PAPERS REPORT EXTENSIVELY ON BRANDT'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON, STATING THAT BRANDT EMPHASIZED FRG COMMITMENT TO NATO ALLIANCE AS TOP PRIORITY PRINCIPLE OF WEST GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY WHILE AT SAME TIME CALLING FOR FULLER AND MORE TIMELY CONSULTATION IN THE FUTURE.

4. LEAD EDITORIAL IN FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG OF OCTOBER 30 SEES SIGNIFICANT DANGERS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE IN DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN US GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND EUROPEAN TENDENCIES, IN MATTERS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO EUROPEAN SECURITY, TO THINK FIRST OF ALL OF BREAD AND BUTTER CONSIDERATIONS LIKE OIL AND TRADE RELATIONS. THE AMERICANS LEARNED IN THE CASE OF VIETNAM, FAZ SAYS, NOT TO EXPECT MUCH FROM THEIR EUROPEAN ALLIES IN CRISIS SITUATIONS. THE SPECIFIC FAILURE OF THE GERMANS TO PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS WAS AN ADDITIONAL VIGOROUS SHOCK AND LED TO AMERICAN STATEMENTS WHICH BETRAY, ON ONE HAND, UNDERSTANDABLE ANNOYANCE, AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, A CONSCIENCE WHICH IS NOT ENTIRELY PURE. FOR AMERICA, FAZ SAYS, OFTEN MAKES ITS DECISIONS IN "SPLENDID ISOLATION," AND IT IS NOT SELDOM THAT THE LEADERS OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES HEAR ABOUT THESE DECISIONS FIRST THROUGH THE NEWS AGENCIES. THE GERMAN ATTITUDE IN THIS MOST RECENT CRISIS CONSTITUTED A FAUX PAS, THE PAPER SAYS.

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 OMB-01 NEA-10 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 311914Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, AMERICA COULD NOT GO ON PRESENT-  
ING ITS CHIEF ALLIES WITH ACCOMPLISHED FACTS. AMERICA  
IS JUSTIFIED IN EXPECTING UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS ROLE  
AND CONSIDERATION FOR ITS INTERESTS; BUT IT CAN'T  
EXPECT ITS ALLIES TO ISSUE "POLITICAL BLANK CHECKS."

5. THIS WEEK'S DIE ZEIT CARRIES LEAD ARTICLE BY ITS  
EDITOR, THEO SOMMER WHICH IS MORE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF  
US BEHAVIOUR. SOMMER TAKES FRG TO TASK FOR ITS CRUDE  
PRESS TREATMENT OF WEAPONS DELIVERIES ISSUE, BUT SAYS  
THE GERMAN STATEMENTS CORRESPONDED IN TONE TO STATEMENTS  
BY PRESIDENT NIXON, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND DEPART-  
MENT SPOKESMAN MCCLOSKEY. SOMMER CRITICIZED WASHINGTON  
FOR FAILURE TO CONSULT AND FOR ASSUMING THAT THE  
INTERESTS OF NATO AS A WHOLE ARE NECESSARILY IDENTICAL  
WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE US AT EVERY POINT ON THE WORLD  
SCENE. SO FAR AS NATO IS CONCERNED, SOMMER ASKS, "WHERE  
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IS IT WRITTEN THAT THE WAR GOALS OF ISRAELI HAWKS ARE  
BINDING ON NATO? WHERE IS IT WRITTEN THAT AMERICAN  
INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF THE AREA OF THE ALLIANCE MUST IN  
ALL CASES BE APPROVED OF AND EVEN SUPPORTED BY ALL OF  
THE ALLIANCE PARTNERS? FINALLY, WHERE IS IT WRITTEN  
THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING  
PEACE IF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, BY HOLDING ITSELF IN A  
POSITION TO DEAL WITH THE ARABS, HELPED TO FREE THEM  
FROM COMPLETE DEPENDENCY ON MOSCOW?" DE GAULLE WOULD  
HAVE TAKEN PLEASURE IN ALL THIS, SOMMER SAYS, BECAUSE  
HE ALWAYS JUDGED THE AMERICANS PRECISELY ALONG THE LINES

ON WHICH THEY HAVE NOW ACTED. BUT DE GAULLE'S CONCLUSION--THAT EUROPE SHOULD DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE AMERICANS--WAS NEVERTHELESS WRONG; AND BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, IN SOMMER'S VIEW, SHOULD, WITH GREATER URGENCY THAN EVER, SET ABOUT BUILDING NEW PILLARS INTO THE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP.  
HILLENBRAND

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005